quantities of particulate material such as recycled polymer material, in particular chopped film which may be printed film, i.e. low grade material, but not liquid or powder. Such a dosing method avoids granulation of plastics material.--

Please amend page 9, lines 1-17 to read as follows:

-- In order to achieve a product with relatively long glass fibres in it, it is necessary to add these fibres after working by the extruder screw used in compounding the material for the board which would otherwise fragment glass fibres to too great an extent. Dispensing of glass fibres and other solid material into matrix passing through the downstream portion of an extruder may be achieved using a flow pump according to W097/42019 for transferring and compacting particulate solids. The glass fibres are also preferably oriented in planes parallel to a load bearing surface thereof by passage through a known multi-layer grid producing multi-layering of glass fibres in the extrudate obtained. This ensures a maximum strength of product. It has also been found that the stiffness of the product is improved if the glass fibres are not of a uniform length.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

-- 1. (Twice Amended) A hollow load bearing structural element extruded from a thermoplastic plastics material which is compounded so that the element has a flexural modulus of 4000 Mpa or above.

2. An element as claimed in claim 1, which has a flexural modulus of 5500 Mpa or above.

3. An element as claimed in claim 1, which has a ratio of flexural modulus in Megapascals to density in kg/m^3 of at least 2.5:1.

4. An element as claimed in claim 3, wherein said ratio is at least 4.2:1.

5. An element as claimed in claim 1, which comprises from 30-90 wt% of thermoplastic polymer and 25-50 wt% of an elastic modulus increasing material.

6. An element as claimed in claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic polymer is polyethylene, polypropylene or polyethylene terephthalate.

7. An element as claimed in claim 6, wherein the thermoplastic polymer is bi-axially oriented polypropylene.

8. (Amended) An element as claimed in claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic plastics material

is a recycled material.

9. An element as claimed in claim 1 which contains glass fibres as an elastic modulus increasing material.

10. An element as claimed in claim 9, wherein the glass fibres have a length of at least 5 mm.

11. An element as claimed in claim 10, wherein the glass fibres have a length of 8-12 mm.

12. An element as claimed in claim 9 wherein the glass fibres are oriented in planes parallel to a load bearing surface thereof.

13. (Amended) An element as claimed in claim 1, which has compounded with the thermoplastic plastics material at least one substance selected from fire retardants, UV stabilisers and/or friction increasers.

14. An element as claimed in claim 1 which has at least one substance selected from fire retardants, UV stabilisers and/or friction increasers present in an outer layer which has a thickness of up to 1 mm.

15. (Amended) An element as claimed in claim 14, wherein the outer layer is formed from thermoplastics plastic material containing the at least one substance and co-extruded with the remainder of the material forming said element.

16. An element as claimed in claim 1, which has a co-extruded outer layer which has anti-slip character.

17. An element as claimed in claim 1 wherein the compounded thermoplastic plastics material contains a coupling agent and/or a nucleating agent in amounts of from 1 to 3 wt% and 0.1 to 2 wt% respectively.

18. (Twice Amended) A method of providing access by foot to a main location to which access is required, which comprises providing access by foot to a first location and locating between the first location and the main location, so as to have an unsupported span existing between support positions, a platform structure which resists static and/or dynamic loading, characterized in that the platform structure is formed as a non-foamed thermoplastic plastics extrudate which is compounded so that the structure has a flexural modulus of at least 4000 Mpa.

19. A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the compounded plastics extrudate has a

flexural modulus of 5500 Mpa or above.

20. A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the ratio of flexural modulus in Megapascals to density in kg/m^3 of plastics material of the compounded plastics material is at least 2.5:1.

21. A method as claimed in claim 20, wherein said ratio is at least 4.2:1.

22. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the compounded plastics extrudate comprises from 30-90 wt% of thermoplastic polymer and 25-50 wt% of an elastic modulus increasing material.

23. A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the thermoplastic polymer is polyethylene, polypropylene or polyethylene terephthalate.

24. A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the thermoplastic polymer is bi-axially oriented polypropylene.

25. A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the thermoplastic plastics material is a recycled material.

26. A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the compounded plastics extrudate contains glass fibres as an elastic modulus increasing material.

27. A method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the glass fibres have a length of at least 5mm.

28. A method as claimed in claim 27, wherein the glass fibres have a length of 8-12 mm.

29. A method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the glass fibres are oriented in planes parallel to a load bearing surface of the compounded plastics extrudate.

30. A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the plastics extrudate has at least one substance selected from fire retardants, UV stabilisers and/or friction increasers compounded therein.

31. A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the compounded plastics extrudate has at least one substance selected from fire retardants, UV stabilisers and/or friction increasers present in an outer layer of the structure which has a thickness of up to 1 mm.

32. A method as claimed in claim 31, wherein the outer layer is formed from thermoplastic plastics material containing the at least one substance and co-extruded with the remainder of the material forming said structure.

33. A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the structure has a co-extruded outer layer which has anti-slip character.